

How Long Will You Wait to Forgive

Forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. — Matthew 6:12

Honour your father and your mother. — Exodus 20:12

For those who have suffered at the hands of the very ones who were to cherish and nurture them, the first question is, ***why should I forgive?***

- “How do I honour parents who are dishonourable?”
- “Can I still forgive my parents even though they’re no longer living?”
- “I don’t want to be reconciled to my mother/father. Does forgiveness require reconciliation?”
- “If I am supposed to forgive, then *how* do I forgive?”

There are answers to this, I have found — profound answers that shake the very ground we stand on, answers that will likely affect all other relationships around us as well.

There are many reasons to begin this path: To silence your memories. To forget what’s been done to you. To unlock your own hard heart and walk about free. To do good to someone who doesn’t deserve it. To restore a relationship. Whatever your motives, you are the one to do it.

You cannot wait for your father and mother to do this for you. You cannot wait for them any longer

- Leslie Leyland Fields, [Forgiving Our Fathers and Mothers](#)

You knew as soon as you read the title whether or not you need to forgive your father, or your mother, or both. How long have you waited to finally forgive? Maybe your dad or mom isn’t the slightest bit sorry for what he or she did. Maybe they’re gone, never to be seen again. Maybe you still see them and you just endure the bitter undertone, acidic remarks, apathy, etc. Maybe your heart breaks every time you think about them. Maybe you’ve decided that you’re done feeling a shred of sadness or anger.

- *Devotions Daily*

Jesus spent a great deal of time talking about the importance of forgiving others. He made it clear that forgiveness is to be a characteristic of his followers.

To forgive means to not seek revenge on the one who has hurt you. It means letting go of the anger we harbor inside us and allowing God to deal with him or her as he, in His perfect wisdom, sees fit.

It doesn’t mean excusing a wrong or denying that it ever happened. It means we don’t allow ourselves to be consumed with anger towards the one who has done something to us. Instead of cursing the people who have wronged us, we pray for them.

“Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you. (Matthew 5:44)

“Don’t repay evil for evil. Don’t retaliate when people say unkind things about you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God wants you to do, and he will bless you for it.” (1 Peter 3:9)

“And don’t sin by letting anger gain control over you. Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a mighty foothold to the Devil. Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of malicious behaviour” (Ephesians 4:26-27,31)

Tips to help you forgive:

- Do not deny that you have been hurt. Forgiving is not denying.
- Make a decision to forgive others (Luke 17:3-5)
- Do not seek revenge or repay evil for evil. Let God handle it in his perfect way (1 Peter 3:9)
- Ask Jesus to help you release the anger inside you (Ephesians 4:26-27,31)
- Pray for those who have hurt you (Matthew 5:44)
- Pray for a forgiving heart and read what the Bible says about the subject.

- <http://biblestudyplanet.com/forgiving-others/>